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20世紀におけるオーストラリア社会の変貌

—20世紀における白豪主義から文化多元主義へ—

ベッドフォード雪子

情報科学部 情報処理科
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The Process of Australian Metamorphosis in the Twentieth Century:
From the White Australian Policy to Multiculturalism

by

Yukiko N. BEDFORD

Department of Information Processing, Faculty of Information Science
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Abstract

The year 2000 would be remembered as a millennium year marking a new direction for mankind. The direction will inevitably lead from regionalism to globalism; and hence, multicultural existence in a peaceful manner in the world is justly desired.

In this paper, Australian society is taken as an example for the possible materialization of that goal. Australia has received worldwide attention in the last year of the 20th century through the sponsorship of Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. More importantly, Australia will celebrate the centenary of the nation's independence from the British, on January 1st, 2001. It is clear that the Olympics itself is carefully planned to appeal to the worldwide spectators. It also exemplifies the nation's metamorphosis from White Australia to Multicultural Australia, embracing all the races and cultures.

The Habitus 2000 Conference which the author attended in September, 2000, held in Perth, Western Australia, also exhibited the nation's direction toward multiculturalism. An international conference attracting some 300 participants from 21 nations, opened and closed respectively with a speech by an Australian aborigine, who earnestly appealed to the international audience concerning the aborigines' plight in their homeland of some 40,000 years.